Funds provided to Orissa under Rural Sanitation Programme

†1998. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by the Central Government as Central assistance to the Government of Orissa under the Rural Sanitation Programme to raise the living standard of the people living in the rural areas during the year 1999-2000; and

(b) whether the Central Government would provide additional Central assistance to the State Government for achieving the stipulated targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Under the Central Rural Sanitation Programme, an amount of Rs. 771.04 lakhs has been released to the Government of Orissa during 1999-2000.

(b) At present, there is no proposal under consideration to give additional Central assistance Under Central Rural Sanitation Programme to the Government of Orissa.

Implementation cost of the Rural Development programmes

1999. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of the Assam Chief Minister which appeared in the 'News Time' dated the 10th July, 2000 to the effect that the Central Government should bear 90% of the implementation cost of the rural development programmes in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and whether Government would seriously consider this demand in the overall interest of the development of the North-Eastern Region; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.